

Taiwan. A great diplomat and close friend of our Nation, C.J. has served with distinction in Taiwan's Foreign Service for thirty seven years. He has spent most of that time working to improve and strengthen the close and friendly ties that exist between Taiwan and the United States.

After he arrived in Washington, DC in 1971, C.J. became the Third Secretary assigned to the Republic of China Embassy in the United States. He was present when formal diplomatic relations between our two countries were terminated in 1979. By then he had been promoted to First Secretary and from that position he was to play a pivotal role in the establishment of a new framework for relations between the people of Taiwan and the people of the United States.

During the 1980s and the 1990s, as C.J. earned a series of promotions to posts of greater and greater responsibility—both in Taipei and in Washington—he continued to serve as an effective catalyst for bringing Taiwan and the United States even closer together. As Taiwan's Deputy Foreign Minister and later Foreign Minister, he insured his nation's foreign policy reflected the tremendous economic progress and democratic development taking place in Taiwan. And, by emphasizing the common values and joint interests that the United States and Taiwan share, C.J. helped to foster mutual trust and cooperation between successive administrations—from Ronald Reagan to George W. Bush in the United States and from Chiang Ching-kuo to Chen Shui-bian in Taiwan.

Over the past four years, C.J. Chen has, in his capacity as Taiwan's chief representative in the United States, endeavored to further enhance the military, political, cultural and economic aspects of our bilateral relationship. Along with his personal friendships with a number of high-ranking administration officials, he has built quite a following in Congress. He strongly encouraged and supported the establishment of the House Taiwan Caucus and the Senate Taiwan Caucus and working closely with members of Congress he has earned our highest respect and affection.

Mr. Speaker. As C.J. concludes his very successful tour of duty in Washington and returns to Taipei, I bid him a fond farewell and wish him all the best in the future. He has been a true friend to so many American people; he is a man of principle and integrity and we will surely miss him on Capitol Hill.

#### BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 3, 2004*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, while we face unfinished work to create stability and peace both in Iraq, and throughout the Middle East, the challenges we face there and the lessons we have learned there make it all the more compelling that we set upon the task of planting firmly the seeds of peace.

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war but the positive affirmation of peace. We must see that peace rep-

resents a sweeter music, a cosmic melody that is far superior to the discords of war. Somehow, we must transform the dynamics of the world power struggle . . . to a positive contest to harness humanity's creative genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity a reality for all the nations of the world."

It is with this in mind that I am proud to introduce the exhibit "Building a Culture of Peace for the Children of the World" which is being presented in cooperation with the Congressional Children's Caucus and will be on display in the foyer of the Rayburn House Office Building on Thursday-Friday, June 3-4, 2004.

This exhibit brings together the creative ideas and examples of hundreds of people, organizations and movements and focuses on the potential of the individual to build peace and security in today's world. It seeks to promote a sense among viewers of empowerment as well as an awareness of the United Nations declaration of the years 2001-2010 as the Decade of Building a culture of Peace and Non-violence for the Children of the World.

I also want to recognize the role of Soka Gakkai International which has created this remarkable exhibit, and the work of its president, Daisaku Ikeda, a widely recognized educator and peace activist, in persisting as a voice for peace during these challenging times.

I urge each of my colleagues to not only view this exhibit; but to be mindful of the example we set today for the generations of tomorrow. More important for our children than model of the brave warrior, is the example of the courageous and creative peace builder. For as the noted writer James Baldwin observed: "Children have never been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them. . . ."

#### HEALTH, SAFETY, AND SECURITY OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 1, 2004*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, as we consider H.R. 4060, the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act of 2004, I want to bring to my colleagues' attention the tragic disappearance of a Peace Corps Volunteer from my Congressional District, Walter Poirier of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Walter Poirier served as a tourism advocate in the Zongo Valley of Bolivia from August of 2000 until May of 2001 when he was officially declared missing by the U.S. Embassy. He has never been seen since. Following Walter's disappearance, I requested a GAO investigation of this case, which concluded that the Peace Corps failed to adequately supervise Walter and eventually lost track of him. The GAO also found that the Peace Corps provided "uneven" implementation of its own safety and security procedures that could pose a risk for its volunteers. I am now writing a letter to Peace Corps Director Gaddi Vasquez urging him to appoint an official to focus solely on the investigation of Walter's disappearance.

Unfortunately, the case of Walter Poirier is not unique. The GAO reports that the incident

rate for major physical assaults nearly doubled from an average of 9 per 1,000 volunteer years from 1991-93 to an average of 17 per 1,000 volunteer years in 1998-2000. Despite concerns from Congress and the public that the Peace Corps has not provided the necessary safety and security for its participants, the organization continues to send volunteers alone to remote and isolated areas and fails to provide adequate housing, supervision, or jobs to keep volunteers busy. I remain very concerned about the ability of the Peace Corps to implement its own safety and security policies in the face of rising violence.

I applaud the House International Relations Committee for holding hearings on the safety and security of Peace Corps volunteers and swiftly reporting out the Health, Safety, and Security of Peace Corps Volunteers Act. I also thank the committee for inviting Walter Poirier's father to testify and share his personal story about the tragic loss of his son. I have urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to follow suit.

This legislation takes a number of critical steps to enhance safety and security procedures within the Peace Corps, including creating an ombudsman to receive complaints, questions and concerns from current or former volunteers regarding safety and security. The bill also establishes an Office of Safety and Security of the Peace Corps responsible for all safety and security activities at the agency and requires the Peace Corps to report to Congress on the effects of limits imposed on the duration of Peace Corps assignments and a study on medical screening procedures used by the agency.

For decades, Peace Corps volunteers have played a critical role in promoting stability and prosperity in developing countries. Today they are asked to play an even more important role in correcting the misperceptions that many have of America. It's a troubling fact that anti-Americanism is on the rise in many parts of the world. That makes the mission of the Peace Corps more important than ever. But it also makes the task of protecting volunteers more urgent than ever.

While the passage of this legislation is by no means a solution to all of the Peace Corps' security problems, it is certainly a positive step forward. If the Peace Corps wants to fulfill its goal of doubling the size of its agency over the next five years—a goal we all share—it must provide its volunteers the safety and security they need.

I therefore strongly support the passage of this bill.

#### HONORING FRANKENMUTH FIRE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 3, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today on behalf of the residents of Frankenmuth, Michigan, to recognize their fire department for 100 years of skilled and dedicated service. On Friday, June 4, 2004, the Frankenmuth community will gather to celebrate this milestone during a special open house and ceremony to be held at the Frankenmuth fire station.